Bath House Blues

Anson Fuller and Homer Treat. Fuller

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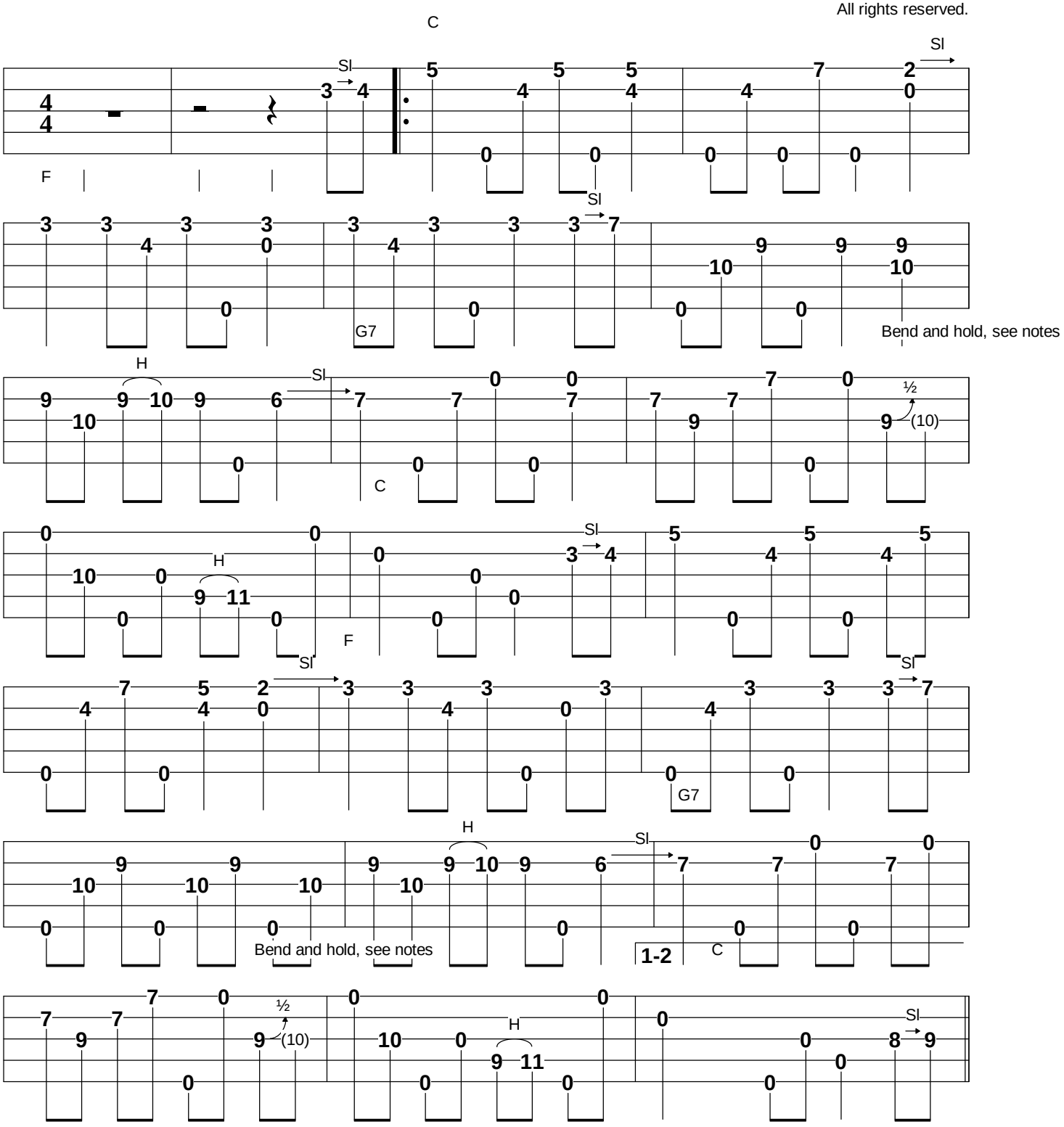

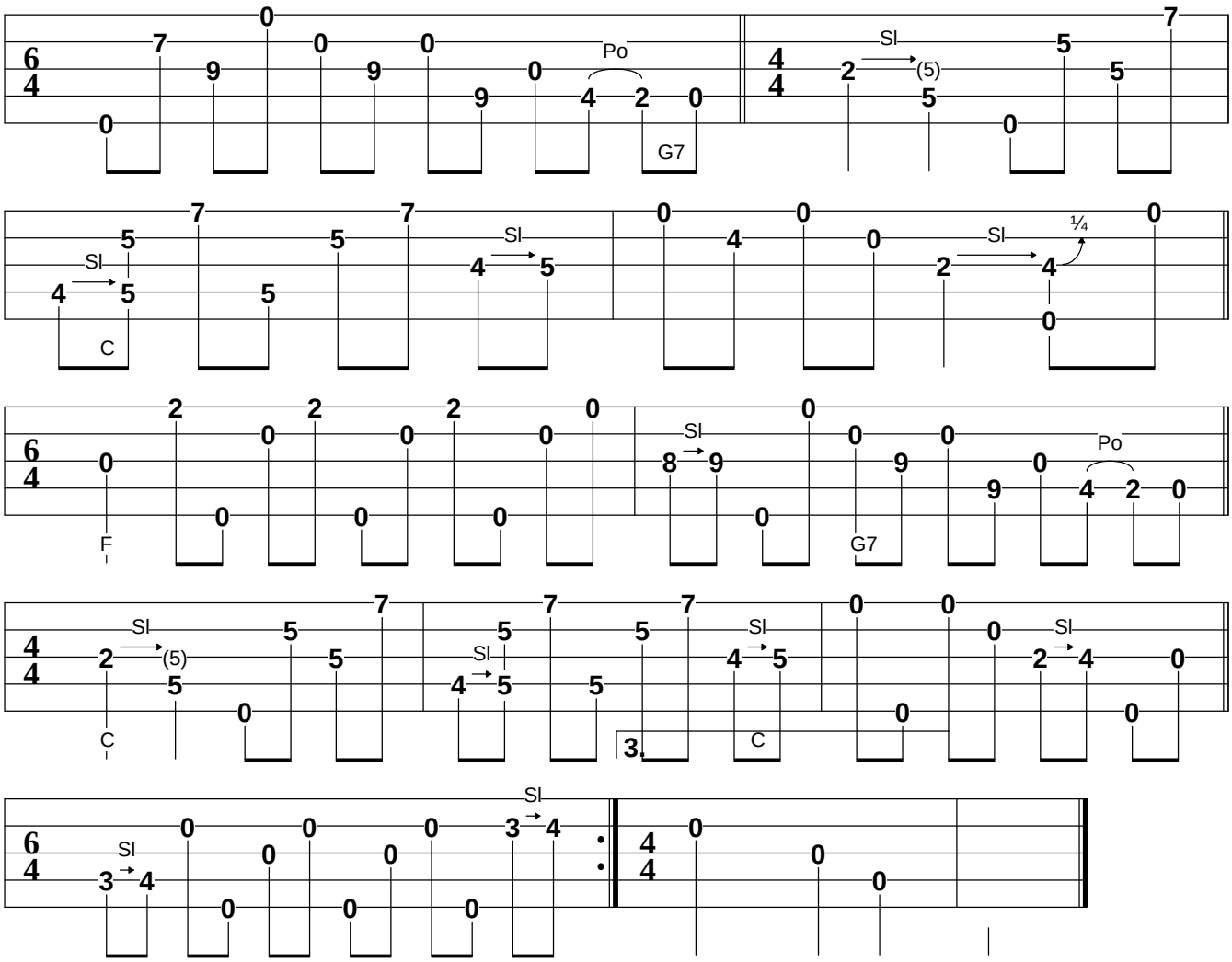

This tune was composed by Arkansas fiddlers Anson Fuller and Homer Treat Fuller, and recorded by the Ozark string band Ashley's Melody Men for Victor Records in 1928. Anson Fuller was one of the fiddlers in the band. My version is based a a fine recording of the tune by the Chicken Chokers, released on a Muddy River CD in 2007. The A part is a 12 bar melody, unusual but basically straight time. At one point, in measure 10, the 3rd string, 9th fret is picked and then bent up a fukll semi-tone, and held at that higher pitch until after it is played again early in the next measure. The 10 in the next measure is referring to the pitch, and is written that way so that the MIDI will replay correctly, but the note is actually the 9th fret note held in the bent position. This repeats again in measures 20-21.

The B part is far more irregular. Each of the two strains is 12 beats, which I could have divided into 6 equal measures, buit the melody is far more squirelly, with the melodic and chordal phrasing following a far more irregular pattern. So I have structured the two strains with 5 measures instead, two of which have 3 beats, and the other 3 the usual 2. I admit this is somewhat arbitrary; I could also have treated both of the extra beats in those two 3 beat measures as seperate measures. Either way works, but to me, this structure makes more musical sense.